

# 2020 Census Count Question Resolution Operation (CQR)

**Presented By:**      **Matthew Frates, Branch Chief, Count Question Resolution Branch**  
**Decennial Census Management Division (DCMD)**

September 24, 2021



Connect with us  
@ uscensusbureau

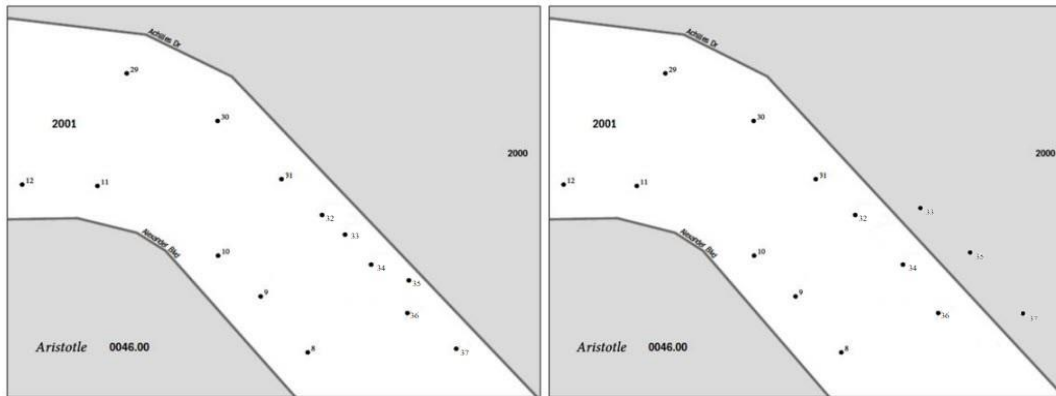
# CQR Overview

- The goal is to improve the quality of the base used for post-2020 Census population estimates.
- Count corrections will be issued, when necessary, to the tribal chairperson or highest elected official of affected governmental units and be uploaded to the CQR website as errata
- CQR corrections will be reflected in the Census Bureau's population estimates program
- CQR will not revise the apportionment data sent to the office of the President, any redistricting data sent to the states, or the Demographic and Housing Characteristics file
- CQR may not collect any new data and is not the same as a Special Census
- CQR it is not a mechanism to address data concerns due to disclosure avoidance methods applied by the Census Bureau

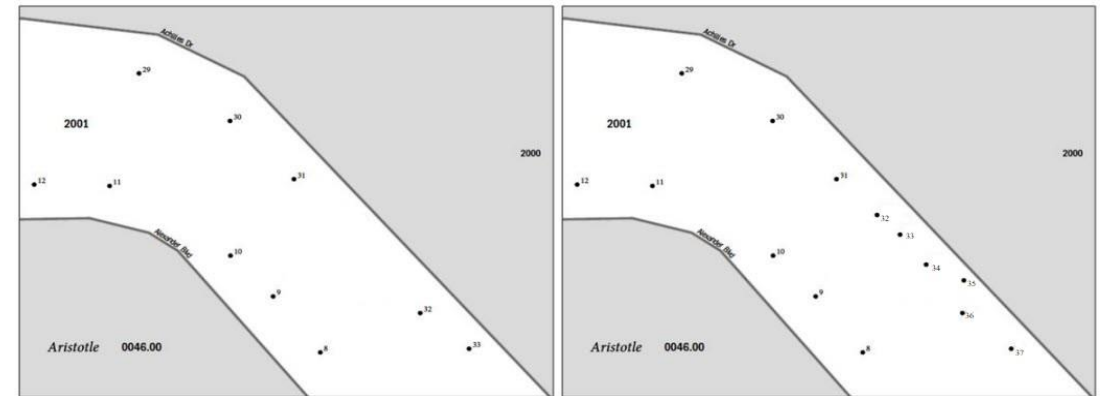
# CQR Case Outcomes

Before and After – Examples of Corrections (examples show fictitious information)

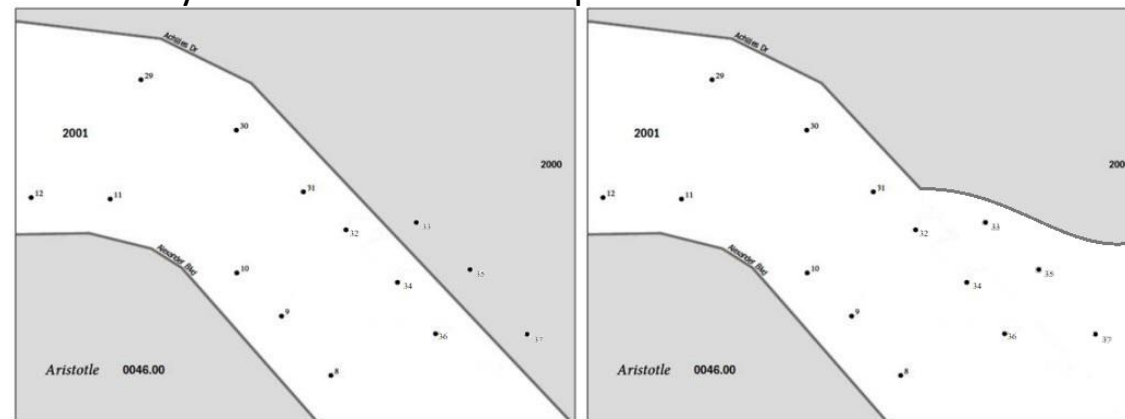
Living Quarter Count case, Geocoding correction example:



Living Quarter Count case, Coverage correction example:



Boundary case correction example:



# CQR - GQ Scope

- The Census Bureau received feedback from numerous stakeholders regarding the scope and start date of 2020 Count Question Resolution (CQR) operation.
- In response to this feedback, the Census Bureau moved the start date to January 2022 and considered an expansion of CQR's scope for 2020 to allow governments to submit cases requesting a review of group quarters population counts that considered administrative records supplied by the government as part of their submission.
- However, federal law requires data collection for the decennial census to end; this occurs once the apportionment results are delivered to Congress and the President. Therefore, the Census Bureau cannot continue collecting response data for the census through the Count Question Resolution (CQR) operation. The CQR operation can correct only those errors that occurred during the processing of information collected during the 2020 enumeration.
- The Census Bureau will continue to research the feasibility of allowing governments to request a review of group quarters population counts through other avenues. The goal would be to improve, as needed, the population baseline used for population estimates throughout the decade, within the legal constraints that bound that program.

# CQR Workflow

- Tribal, state, and local governments review published 2020 Census results. If they suspect errors with their boundaries or their housing counts by block, they may file a CQR case.
- CQR staff receives cases, reviews the case materials for correctness and completeness, and determines whether the case is in or out of scope.
- In-scope cases are sent to Census geographic subject matter experts for research and resolution. During research, staff will review the 2020 Census enumeration and processing records in conjunction with the evidence supplied with the CQR case. Research may or may not find processing errors in the 2020 Census data.
- If no processing errors are found, there will be no updates and the case is closed. If processing errors are found, they are addressed within Census Bureau records and systems. Once resolved, the Census Bureau will provide certified counts to any governments impacted by the CQR case.
- The Census Bureau provides the disposition for each CQR case to the appropriate the highest elected official(s) of all impacted tribal, state, and local government(s), and posts the errata on the 2020 CQR website in the event of a change.

# CQR Key Dates

- **September 2021:** The Census Bureau completes delivery of data from the 2020 Census to the states for redistricting purposes
- **Fall 2021:** Federal Register Notice posted for the public 30-day comment period
- **December 2021:** Proposed timing for the Census Bureau to send a message to the tribal chairpersons and highest elected officials at tribal, state, and local governments who are eligible to file a CQR case
- **January 2022:** Census Bureau to begin processing CQR cases from eligible tribal, state, and local governments, researching the census enumeration records from each GU
- **June 30, 2023:** The Census Bureau stops accepting CQR cases
- **September 30, 2023:** Deadline for the Census Bureau to provide results to impacted GUs

# Current Status

- The CQR management team is finalizing responses to all comments received during the 60-day comment period for the CQR Federal Register Notice.
- The CQR management team is also finalizing all necessary documentation for the 30-day comment period required for the CQR Federal Register Notice. We anticipate posting the 30-day notice and submitting the OMB packet this Fall.
- CQR staff is working to finalize:
  - CQR Public FAQs
  - CQR Participant Guides
  - CQR Flyer
  - CQR Letters
  - CQR Website

# Questions?

matthew.frates@census.gov

Thank you!



Connect with us  
@ uscensusbureau